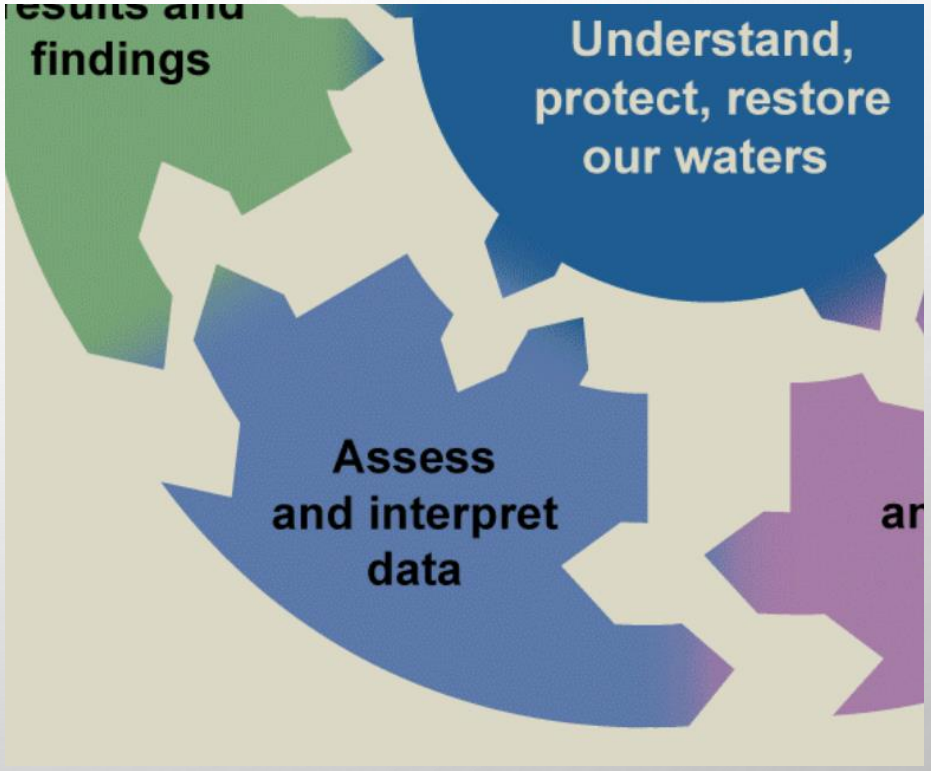
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AT NWQMC

A VERY BRIEF UPDATE

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

- Why do we monitor?
- The importance of context
- Communication between “monitoring people” and “standards people”
- How can people use data from the Portal to meet environmental objectives?



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

- Fact sheets on guidance values (currently underway)
  - Similar in depth and format to existing “Guide for Informed Decision Making” series
- Inventory of state and federal WQ standards
  - May be able to work through FSTRAC or WQSMA

WQS FACT SHEETS

1. **Types of Guidance**
   - Antidegradation standards (CWA)
   - Chemical-by-chemical vs. waterbody-by-waterbody
   - Aquatic life vs. human health
     - Aquatic life for multiple species
     - Human health standards for multiple durations, mixtures, sensitive subpops., etc

WQS FACT SHEETS

2. **Ecological/Aquatic Life standards and how they are developed**
   - Toxicological endpoints– chronic vs. acute
   - Continuous concentration vs. max concentration (1985 NWQC for aquatic orgs.)
   - State-level work on aquatic life standards
3. **Human Health standards and how they are developed**
   - Toxicological endpoints
   - Uncertainty Factors
   - Water intake rates
   - Exposure considerations (Relative Source Contribution factor, etc.)

WQS FACT SHEETS

4. **Monitoring for standards development**
   - "Data-driven"
   - Standards derived from long-term monitoring